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STEVEN MICHAEL SKATES

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

STEVEN MICHAEL SKATES, an
individual,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA;
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE;
MARK GERARD BEDDOW, an
individual; and DOES 1 through 10,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 5:22-cv-1610

**PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT
FOR DAMAGES**

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This Court has original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1346(b).
2. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e)(1) because a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claim took place in this district.

3. On or about September 13, 2021, Plaintiff STEVEN MICHAEL SKATES (hereinafter, "Plaintiff") caused to be presented a claim for injury under the Federal Tort Claims Act to the United States (United States Postal Service Accident Investigation/Tort Claim Unit), which was duly received and acknowledged by the Tort Claim Examiner/Adjudicator on November 30, 2021. To date, it is unknown if this claim was accepted.

PARTIES

4. Plaintiff was at all relevant times an individual residing in Riverside County, California.

5. Plaintiff does not know the true names or capacities of the Defendants sued herein under the fictitious names DOES 1 through 10, inclusive. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and alleges thereon, that each of those Defendants were legally responsible for the occurrences alleged in this complaint and for Plaintiff's damages.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

6. On or about January 8, 2021, at approximately 5:30 P.M., Plaintiff was driving on Hermosa Avenue, at or near 8th Street, in Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701. Plaintiff was driving a 2019 Ford Fusion Hybrid. Plaintiff's vehicle was at a complete stop when his vehicle was rear ended by a vehicle that was owned and operated by Defendant, UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE and driven by Defendant MARK GERARD BEDDOW. Defendant MARK GERARD BEDDOW was driving carelessly or inattentively and failed to take reasonable care while driving and struck Plaintiff with a substantial amount of force, causing physical injury to Plaintiff.

7. At the time of the collision, Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis allege, that Defendant MARK GERARD BEDDOW was driving a

1 vehicle owned by Defendant UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, or the
2 United States, and that he was then acting in the course and scope of his
3 employment for the United States.

4
5 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

6 **(Negligence)**

7 8. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set
8 forth above in paragraphs 1 through 7, inclusive, as though set forth in full.

9 9. Defendants, and each of them, including DOES 1 through 10
10 inclusive, failed to use ordinary and reasonable care to prevent harm to Plaintiff,
11 and were thereby negligent in the acts and omissions set forth herein.

12 10. As a direct and proximate result of the above-described conduct of
13 said Defendants, and each of them, including DOES 1 through 10 inclusive,
14 Plaintiff was injured and sustained physical injury and resulting economic and
15 non-economic damages in an amount subject to proof, but not less than
16 \$1,328,579.00.

17
18 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

19 11. Plaintiff, STEVEN MICHAEL SKATES, hereby respectfully
20 requests a trial by jury on all issues triable by a jury in the above-entitled action.

21
22 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

23 Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants, and each of them, as
24 follows:

- 25 1. For general damages according to proof;
26 2. For economic damages, according to proof;
27 3. For costs of suit incurred herein;
28 4. For such other and further relief as this court may deem just and

proper.

DATED: August 23, 2022

B & D LAW GROUP, APLC

By /s/ Daniel D. Geoulla
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